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State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

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July 17, 2008

Barat Mathur, Administrator  
USEPA Region 5, Mailcode R19J  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3507

RECEIVED

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U.S. EPA REGION 5  
OFFICE OF REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Re: Village of Laurelville OH Grant No. XP97579701  
USEPA Region 5 Audit Report #08-2-0039

Dear Mr. Mathur:

I am writing in support of the Village of Laurelville's recent request for additional time to respond to the findings of the above referenced report.

Over the past year, the Village has experienced difficulties that impaired their ability to present timely information during the course of the audit. Because of these circumstances, our office volunteered to assist the current Village officials in developing a reply to the audit report. Additionally, a controversy arose earlier this year over a technical issue regarding the election of the new mayor, causing them to miss the opportunity to request the ability to present additional information.

Thus far, our observation is that the Village has had limited administrative resources prior to and during the audit, so last year they were unsuccessful in assembling grant-related records for the audit team to review. Through the efforts of Mayor Hettinger, we believe that documents that are material to the audit conclusions have now been retrieved and organized to the extent that it would be contrary to the purpose of the audit not to allow the Village to present additional information.

We appreciate your consideration of this request. Please call me at 614-644-2798 if we can be of assistance.

In closing, let me acknowledge the valuable guidance and support of the staff of your Water Division's State and Tribal Assistance Branch. We have enjoyed years of successful collaboration, and their contributions have been critical to the accomplishments of Ohio's state revolving fund programs.

Sincerely,

Gregory H. Smith, Chief  
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

c: Robert Kaplan, ORC Region 5

Ted Strickland, Governor  
Lee Fisher, Lieutenant Governor  
Chris Korleski, Director



In regards to: Village of Laurelville Grant No. XP97579701 – Request for Extension

Mr. Barat Mathur  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Barat Mathur:

My name is Jason Hettinger, current Mayor for the Village of Laurelville, Ohio. This letter is in reference to requesting an extension for the present determination letter (Report Number 08-2-0039).

The Village of Laurelville, Ohio is a very small village with limited resources. All of the Village administrative positions are part time with only one (1) full time maintenance employee, all using limited tools and resources. With the limited resources, and donations of time and money from the Village residents and businesses, the Village is able to provide water, sewer, limited police protection, and volunteer fire protection to the Village residents.

Prior to my administration the Village of Laurelville requested financial assistance to refurbish the Village Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP). This financial assistance was provided via a fund matching grant. This grant funds and the Village matching funds provided the Village with a compliant WWTP. Not all the available grant funds were consumed, due to financial constraints in the Village budget. After the work was complete an audit was performed on the grant project by the USEPA, and the Village was found to be non compliant with the terms of the grant.

As the present Mayor of the Village of Laurelville, I requested assistance from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) in late September 2007 with the non compliant grant issues. The Village administration reviewed several boxes of records and assembled several grant support documents for review by the OEPA. Copies of the grant support documents were provided to the OEPA to assist the Village of Laurelville develop a response to the non compliant issues found by the USEPA audit. The Village support documentation is to be assembled and will provide clarification to the non compliant issues in the USEPA draft determination letter.

The Village of Laurelville was not able to request a response or request an extension during the allotted time frame due to multiple issues within the Village administration. The most significant issue was concerning the legitimacy of the Mayor's election. Within the past month, an anonymous letter was given to the Hocking County prosecutor (Village of Laurelville's county seat) concerning the Mayor's residence being in or out of the Village Corporation Limits.

Due to the nature of this issue, any document signed or requested by the Mayor may be considered illegal or non binding. Since the Village of Laurelville is very small and does not have any full time administrative employees, most of the Village administrative work stopped, including the request for an extension on the grant determination letter.

As Mayor of the Village of Laurelville, I am requesting an extension to the grant determination letter so the Village of Laurelville can present the information that was collected. I formally request a 60 day extension that would allow the Village and OEPA sufficient time to assemble the collected documentation in a presentable format concerning the non compliant findings per the determination letter.

If you have any questions concerning this subject manner or require further information please contact me.

Thank you,



Jason Hettinger - Mayor, Village of Laurelville

cc: Mr. Robert Kaplan  
Office of Regional Counsel  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Mailcode C-14J  
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Mr. Greg Smith  
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency  
50 West Town Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

